



VENTURING REFERENCE GUIDE

BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

A

activity chair. A Venturer appointed by the crew Advisor and president to chair a crew activity or project.

Adirondack National High Adventure Area. A variety of camping, canoeing, climbing, sailing, and rafting trips is available to Venturing crews June through August. Contact Otetiana Council, BSA, 474 Avenue E, Rochester, NY 14607; phone 716-244-4210.

adult leadership at national high-adventure bases. There are no gender restrictions for adult leaders at national high-adventure bases except that each coed crew must have coed adult Advisors. All adults must be registered leaders. Each expedition, crew, or group must have at least two registered adult Advisors. For Venturing units, both Advisors must be 21 years of age or older. Every crew is required to have a majority of youth participants.

advancement, Boy Scout. Any male Venturer who has achieved the First Class rank as a Boy Scout in a troop or Varsity Scout in a team may continue working toward the Star, Life, and Eagle awards while a Venturer up to his 18th birthday. He must meet the requirements as prescribed in the *Boy Scout Handbook* and the current *Boy Scout Requirements*. Leadership requirements may be met by the Venturer serving as president, vice president, secretary, or treasurer in his crew, or as boatswain, boatswain's mate, yeoman, purser, or storekeeper in his ship. The Scoutmaster conference will be conducted by the Advisor or Skipper. As the Venturer meets the requirements for the Star and Life ranks, a board of review is conducted by the crew or ship committee. The Eagle board of review follows the procedure established by the local council.

advancement, Venturing. The Venturing advancement program is based on achieving proficiency in a variety of skill levels. Advancement includes the

Venturing Bronze Awards for each of the five Venturing clusters, Venturing Gold Award, Venturing Ranger Award, Venturing Silver Award and the Sea Scouting Quartermaster Award. The Venturing Silver Award is the highest award that can be achieved in Venturing. The Quartermaster Award is the highest award that can be achieved in Sea Scouting.

Any male Venturer who has achieved the First Class rank as a Boy Scout in a troop or Varsity Scout in a team may continue working toward the Star, Life, and Eagle awards while a Venturer to his 18th birthday. He must meet the requirements as prescribed in the official *Boy Scout Handbook* and the current *Boy Scout Advancement Requirements*.

Advisor, Venturing. The top adult leader of a Venturing crew who is responsible for program, coordination, and the training of the elected youth officers of the crew or ship. The Advisor or Skipper is appointed by the crew or ship committee, approved by the chartered organization, and commissioned, upon approval of the registration, by the Boy Scouts of America. Advisors must be 21 years of age, be citizens or legal residents of the United States, accept the BSA Declaration of Religious Principle (see "Religious Principle, Declaration of"), and be of high moral character. All adult positions in Venturing are open to men and women.

alcohol. The use of alcoholic beverages by Venturers, leaders, or guests at any Venturing function is prohibited. Adult and elected leaders should be prepared to help crew members understand the serious consequences that can result from the use of alcoholic beverages.

all-terrain vehicles. Motorized recreational cycles with three or four large, soft tires, designed for off-road use on a variety of terrains, are unauthorized and restricted by the BSA.

Alpha Phi Omega (APO). A national service fraternity whose program of leadership, friendship, and service is founded on the principles of Scouting. This coeducational fraternity has chapters at more than 350 colleges and universities. For information contact Alpha Phi Omega National Office, 1100 Waltower Building, Kansas City, MO 64106.

American Youth Hostels. See "Hostels, American Youth."

area. An administrative section of a BSA region containing a number of councils.

associate Advisor. Each crew or ship should have one or more adults, 21 years of age or older, who perform such duties as may be assigned by the Advisor. Associate Advisors must meet the same requirements for commissioning as Advisors and are recommended for commissions by the Advisor and crew committee, subject to their chartered organization and BSA local council approval. Associate Advisors often are assigned administrative and program functions. An associate Advisor in a Sea Scout ship is called a "mate."

aviation. Encompasses orientation flights in powered aircraft, sailplanes, helicopters, and military aircraft; ground school pilot training; all nonflying activities including simulators, building aircraft, tours, seminars, speakers, etc.; and hands-on flying experiences where a venturer may take control of the aircraft, but the qualified pilot in command of the aircraft, as defined under basic and advanced orientation flights, must be in control of the aircraft at all times. A BSA Flying Permit Application, No. 99-272, approved by the BSA local council is required.

aviation insurance for search and rescue teams. Venturing crews involved in search and rescue activities must not include the use of any

type of aircraft for any search and rescue efforts.

awards. Silver Award, Gold Award, Bronze Awards, Ranger Award, and Leadership Award.

B

boatswain (pronounced bo'sun). The elected youth leader of a Sea Scout ship equivalent to the president of a Venturing crew.

boxing. An unauthorized and restricted activity by the BSA.

Boy Scout resident camp. Venturers may participate in Boy Scout resident camping if registered and attending with a troop.

Boys' Life. The magazine for all boys published by the Boy Scouts of America.

Bronze Awards. Five Bronze Awards are available to Venturers. Each Bronze Award relates to one of the five Venturing program special interest clusters: sports, arts and hobbies, youth ministries, outdoors, and Sea Scouting. Venturers may earn all five awards. Achievement of at least one Bronze Award is a requirement for the Gold Award.

C

camping policy. All youth registered in Venturing may participate in crew, district, council, and national Venturing camping activities. Venturers may also participate in national high-adventure programs and, on a limited basis, world jamborees. Venturers may participate in Boy Scout resident camping if registered and attending with a troop.

cave exploring. The hazardous nature of some caves dictates the need for expert leadership, adequate training, and correct equipment for safe cave exploring. Crews that include spelunking in their program must be under the leadership of a responsible adult who is qualified through training and experience in cave exploring and knows established practices of safety, conservation, and courtesy to cave owners. (See Cave Exploring, No. 19-102.)

chainsaws and mechanical log splitters. May be authorized for use only by trained individuals using proper protective gear who are at least age 18 in accordance with local laws.

chartered organization. The Boy Scouts of America local council grants an annual charter to community organizations—businesses, industries, labor unions, schools, churches, and other organizations—to operate Venturing crews. These organizations must have purposes compatible with the Boy Scouts of America and be capable of providing adequate adult leadership, program resources, and meeting facilities. The adult Venturing crew leaders must be approved by the chartered organization, be registered with the BSA, and provide sound and moral leadership and the support necessary to provide a successful and wholesome program for young adults.

chartered organization representative. An adult appointed by the head of a chartered organization to coordinate Scouting units within the organization and to represent the organization as a voting member of the BSA local council. The person appointed must be 21 years of age or older and a U.S. citizen, of good character, accept the BSA Declaration of Religious Principle, and be approved by the local council. The chartered organization representative may serve concurrently as crew committee chair or member.

charter presentation. A formal ceremony at which time the charter, leader commissions, and membership certificates are presented to the organization's leaders and members of the crew or ship.

child abuse. The Boy Scouts of America is deeply concerned about the welfare of young adults. The BSA pamphlet, *Child Abuse: Let's Talk About It*, No. 3943, should be used to discuss this issue with parents and other leaders. Suspected cases of child abuse should be reported to the BSA council Scout executive. Child abuse can be physical, mental, sexual, or verbal. It can come from a variety of sources, including other youth, leaders, or parents. The BSA has long advocated that parents should be involved with the activities of their son or daughter, know the crew's adult leaders and other parents, and be involved with the crew's program.

cluster. A grouping of Venturing crews by program interest. National Venturing clusters include arts and hobbies, out-

doors, sports, youth ministries, and Sea Scouting.

coed Venturing crews. The membership policy of a Venturing crew is determined by the organization chartering the crew (see "membership requirements"). The organization may determine if its crew is to be coed, all male, or all female (the majority of crews are coed). It is recommended that coed crews have male and female adult leaders.

coed overnight activities. All Venturing activities shall conform to the ideals and purposes of the Boy Scouts of America. To ensure that all coed overnight activities for Venturers and invited guests at crew, district, council, regional, or national levels meet proper moral standards, the national Venturing Committee has established the following policy:

1. The crew Advisor (or Skipper) or council Scout executive must give careful consideration to the number of adults necessary to provide appropriate leadership for both male and female participants. The number of adult leaders required by the hosting facility or organization (such as a BSA national high-adventure base) must be provided.
2. Adult leaders must be 21 years of age or older and be approved by the crew Advisor or Skipper (on behalf of the chartered organization) or by the council Scout executive.
3. Separate housing must be provided for both male and female participants.
4. An adult male leader must be housed with and be responsible for the male participants. An adult female leader must be housed with and be responsible for the female participants.
5. Written parent or guardian approval is required for each Venturer or guest under 21 years of age.

See "leadership policy for all trips and outings."

committee, crew. A group of adult men and women recruited by the chartered organization, through its chartered organization representative, to organize and support the program and leadership of the organization's crew. One person is elected or appointed to serve as chair. The crew committee is responsible for managing the crew's program

capability inventory and for recruiting the crew Advisor and associate Advisors. All committee members must be 21 years of age or older, of good character, and U.S. citizens or legal residents; accept the BSA Declaration of Religious Principle; and be approved for a certificate of membership by their BSA local council. A minimum of three persons is required to form a crew committee, one serving as chair.

Conservation Good Turn Certificate. The conservation Good Turn is an opportunity for Venturing crews to join with conservation or environmental organizations (federal, state, local, or private) to carry out a conservation Good Turn in their home communities. (Application, No. 21-386)

constructive controversy activity. A type of problem-solving situation that is complex in nature and usually involves ethical issues. It encourages working toward a solution that the group involved will support and implement.

consultant. A person who has special skills, equipment, facilities, or contacts in an interest area related to the crew program.

council. An incorporated and BSA-chartered body of representatives (chartered organization representatives and members at large) from organizations operating packs, troops, teams, and crews. The more than 300 local councils are responsible for the administration of BSA programs in a designated geographic territory.

council service center. The business center for the BSA local council's administration of Scouting.

crew code and bylaws. A set of bylaws adopted by the members of a crew or ship to guide their officers and program. The Venturing Code is included as a preamble.

crew committee. See "committee, crew."

crew, Venturing. Youth members and adult leaders who conduct the Venturing program within an organization chartered by the BSA.

cross-country flights. Noncommercial flights with the sole purpose of getting from point A to point B are unauthorized and restricted by the BSA.

cruise release form. A parental release form may be required by the U.S. Navy and Coast Guard for Venturers participating in military cruises. Samples of these forms are available from BSA local council service centers.

D

disabled persons, mentally and physically. All Venturing crews are encouraged to involve persons with disabilities as members. Chartered organizations using Venturing determine, with the approval of appropriate medical authorities, whether a youth member is qualified to register beyond the normal Venturer registration age limit of 21. The Venturing Advisor/Skipper's signature on the Venturer application or the unit's charter renewal application certifies the approval of the chartered organization.

district. A geographic administrative entity of a council.

district committee. A group of volunteer adults responsible for carrying out the BSA program within a geographic district of a council.

district executive (DE). A professional who works under the direction of the Scout executive and is responsible for the administration of the district.

drivers, youth. Venturers who have a valid driver's license (not a learner's permit or equivalent) are permitted to drive themselves and others in a Venturing activity. For BSA local and national tour permits, Venturer drivers must be 16 years of age, have six months' driving experience, no accidents or violations, and have parental permission for drivers and riders.

drug abuse. The illegal use or possession of drugs or hallucinogens by Venturers, adults, or guests is prohibited at any Venturing function.

E

Eagle Award. The highest advancement rank for Boy Scouts.

elected officers' seminar. An annual planning and training program conducted by the crew Advisor for newly elected youth officers.

emblems. Venturing crews are encouraged to design their own identifying emblems. A crew emblem is not limited in size, but if worn on the sleeve of an

official BSA uniform shirt or jacket, it may not be more than 3 inches in diameter and is worn 2 inches below the shoulder seam on the right sleeve. Crew emblem designs should be approved by the BSA local council before they are ordered.

emergency service. All Venturing crews are encouraged to include emergency preparedness training in their program.

ethics forum. One or more persons who work in the special-interest area of the crew are invited to speak to the crew about ethical issues in the field. Crew members can use the information gathered to develop their own special-interest constructive controversies. See "constructive controversy activity."

Ethics in Action. In the Boy Scouts of America program, the belief in experiential learning and the values and ethical principles that this kind of learning seeks to promote are referred to as Ethics in Action.

executive board, council. A group of adults elected by the chartered organization representatives and members at large of a local council to be responsible for the ongoing administration and extension of the program of the BSA.

experience areas. The crew program is designed around social, citizenship, service, leadership, fitness, and outdoor experience areas.

experimental class aircraft flying. Venturers may not participate in experimental class aircraft flying. This is an unauthorized and restricted activity by the BSA.

F

Fifty-Miler Award. A recognition given to members of a crew who make a wilderness hike, canoe, or rowboat trip of not less than 50 consecutive miles in no less than five days and complete a service project on the way.

firearms. The Boy Scouts of America encourages the safe and proper use of rifles, shotguns, muzzle-loaders, and air rifles in outdoor sports. Shooting on BSA camp ranges and in cooperation with other national associations with similar purposes adds to greater knowledge of the safe and proper use of firearms. All training and shooting must be supervised by an NRA-certified instructor or a

certified instructor of a local, state, or federal agency. Use of handguns is limited to Venturers, who must complete a basic handgun marksmanship safety course prior to range firing.

fireworks. The use and handling of fireworks can be dangerous and is classified by most safety and fire prevention experts as a hazardous activity. It is the policy of the Boy Scouts of America to prohibit the securing, use, and display of fireworks in conjunction with BSA programs and activities. Further, local councils may not authorize any group acting for or on behalf of its members, units, or districts to sell fireworks as a fund-raising or money-earning activity. This policy does not preclude having a fireworks display conducted under the auspices of a certified and/or licensed fireworks control expert.

firstnighter. A special meeting held by each crew, usually in the fall, to recruit new members.

flight release form. See "flying policy."

Florida National High Adventure Sea Base. Provides aquatics adventure programs, including canoeing, sailing, scuba diving, and exploring the reefs of the Florida Keys and the Bahamas, for Venturing crews. Contact Florida National High Adventure Sea Base, P.O. Box 1206, Islamorada, FL 33036-1206; phone 305-664-4173.

flying policy. A BSA Flying Permit Application, No. 99-272, approved by the BSA local council, and Parent/ Guardian Consent Form for BSA Aviation Flights, No. 99-273, are required for any activity involving Venturers riding in aircraft other than commercial flights. Venturers may not participate in cross-country flights, experimental class aircraft flying, flying aircraft as part of a search and rescue mission, hang-glider flying, hot-air ballooning, pilot rating certification in powered and nonpowered aircraft, sport parachuting, or ultralight flying. Councils or units may not own aircraft.

football. Participation on varsity football teams or interscholastic or club football training or competition is not approved as a Venturing activity.

fraternization policy. The Boy Scouts of America does not condone and will not permit fraternization between Venturers and adult leaders or other affiliated adults. This policy applies to all youth members regardless of local or

state laws related to age of consent. Fraternization is not morally appropriate, nor in keeping with the relationship between youth members and adult leaders prescribed in the programs of the Boy Scouts of America.

Friends of Scouting (FOS). An annual opportunity for parents and interested people in the community to provide financial support to their local council.

G

Gold Award. The Gold Award is available to Venturers. The Gold Award is designed to recognize significant accomplishment in a Venturer's life as he or she has proven outstanding performance in at broad spectrum of activities. Achievement of the Gold Award is a requirement for the Silver Award.

Guide to Safe Scouting, No. 34416. Pamphlet designed to prepare adult leaders to conduct Venturing activities in a safe and prudent manner; the policies and guidelines in it have been established because of the real need to protect members from known hazards identified through years of experience in the BSA. A free guide is available through your BSA local council service center.

H

handguns. Handgun use in the BSA is limited to Venturing only. All training and shooting activities must be under the supervision of an NRA-certified instructor or the firearms instructor recognized by a local, state, or federal agency.

hand salute/hand sign. There is no official hand salute or hand sign in the Venturing program. However, should a Venturing adult or youth in uniform find themselves in a position where a hand salute is appropriate, it is recommended that Venturers and adult leaders use a full-hand salute.

hang gliding. See "parachuting or hang gliding."

hazardous activities. Crew or ship programs should include proper safety and fitness training prior to involvement in activities such as rifle shooting, rock climbing, waterskiing, etc. Venturers should not be involved in projects or activities with potential hazards without proper training, equipment, knowledge of safety

procedures, and supervision of qualified adults. See "unauthorized activities."

Heroism Award. (Formerly "Certificate for Heroism.") A lifesaving award presented by the BSA National Court of Honor to a registered Venturer or leader who has saved a life at some risk to his or her own. (Contact BSA local council service center.)

high-adventure bases (national, BSA). See individual listings for Florida National High Adventure Sea Base, Northern Tier National High Adventure Programs, and Philmont Scout Ranch. See also Adirondack National High Adventure Area.

Historic Trails Award. Available to Venturing crews planning and conducting historic service projects or activities in cooperation with a local historic society. (Contact BSA local council service center.)

Honor Medal. A lifesaving award presented by the BSA National Court of Honor to a registered Venturer or leader who has demonstrated unusual heroism in saving or attempting to save a life at extreme personal risk. (Contact BSA local council service center.)

Hornaday Award. The William T. Hornaday Award is available to recognize Venturers and/or crews/ships for distinguished service in conservation. (Application, No. 21-107)

Hostels, American Youth. In addition to the many resources available to traveling Venturers and Scouts, hostels offer another inexpensive housing alternative. Contact an American Youth Hostel Council near you or the organization's national headquarters in Washington, D.C. BSA local councils can take advantage of an offer for a free nonprofit membership by writing to American Youth Hostels, Dept. PE/NEA, P.O. Box 37613, Washington, DC 20013-7613; phone 202-783-6161.

hot-air ballooning. An unauthorized and restricted activity by the BSA.

identification. All crews and ships are encouraged to adopt some form of uniform or clothing item that identifies their members as Venturers. Jackets, T-shirts, and other items can be considered. Special-interest crews often adopt

items common to their programs. (See "uniforms and insignia (BSA).")

initiative games. Fun, cooperative, challenging games in which the group is confronted with a specific problem to solve.

insurance. The Boy Scouts of America has a program of general liability insurance that covers most liability exposures of Venturing functions and activities. This is a legal liability policy and does not provide medical payments or accident insurance, which pays medical expenses regardless of fault. Accident insurance is available through your BSA local council. The liability policy covers the BSA local council (including crews or ships), the National Council, all Scouting officials, employees, chartered organizations, donors and volunteer workers, young-adult leaders, and certificate holders by specific endorsement. The insured parties are covered for sums which they shall become legally obligated to pay as damages to third parties because of bodily injury or property damage caused by an occurrence arising out of or in the course of Venturing functions and activities. It is excess over other valid and collectible insurance carried by volunteers. Coverage is primary for chartered organizations.

J

judo. See "karate and boxing."

K

karate and boxing. Boxing, karate, and other related martial arts are not approved activities for Venturers. Judo is approved as an activity under the supervision of a qualified instructor.

L

Leadership Award. Available to youth and adult volunteers registered and involved in Venturing. The Venturing Leadership Award is presented by councils, areas/regions, and the BSA National Council to Venturers and adult volunteers who have made exceptional contributions to Venturing and who exemplify the Venturing Code and Oath. Refer to Leadership Award guidelines for annual council, areas/regions, and National Council quota restrictions.

leadership policy for all trips and outings. It is the policy of the Boy Scouts of America that trips and outings

may never be led by only one adult. At least two adult leaders, both of whom must be at least 21 years of age, are required for all trips or outings. It is the responsibility of the chartered organization of any Venturing crew/ ship to inform the committees and leadership of the unit that sufficient adult leadership be provided on all trips and outings. (Coed overnight activities require male and female adult leaders. See "coed overnight activities.")

Lifeguard, BSA. Certification available through the BSA for persons qualified to supervise swimming and other aquatics activities. (Contact BSA local council for details.)

M

mate. The Sea Scouts, BSA equivalent of an associate Advisor.

Medal of Merit. May be awarded by the National Court of Honor to a registered Venturer or leader for meritorious action of an exceptional character, not necessarily involving risk to life. (Contact BSA local council service center.)

medical examinations. All Venturers and adult leaders should have medical examinations by their personal physicians before participating in vigorous activities. Venturing Advisors should be aware of any medical restrictions or conditions of crew members that might endanger them during activities or trips. A health history of each member should be requested and updated annually, especially by crews planning strenuous activities.

membership policy. It is the Boy Scouts of America's official position that its youth and adult membership (in all categories and program phases) shall be open to all without regard to race or ethnic background. A charter will not be granted by the Boy Scouts of America to a group that establishes a rule or custom preventing any youth or adult from membership in its Cub Scout, Boy Scout, Varsity Scout, or Venturing unit because of race or ethnic background.

membership requirements. Venturing is for young men and women who have completed the eighth grade and are 14 years of age, or are 15 or older but have not yet reached their 21st birthday. They must pay an annual registration fee, accept the obligation to observe the Venturing Oath and Code,

and attend regular meetings of the crew or ship. Membership in a crew or ship requires the approval of the Advisor or Skipper within the policies of the BSA. Venturers registered in a crew or ship before their 21st birthday may continue as members after their 21st birthday until the crew or ship recharter or until they reach their 22nd birthday.

Mile Swim, BSA. A recognition available for Venturers who follow a program of preliminary conditioning and swim a continuous mile under the supervision of a qualified swim coach or instructor.

military policy. Military programs and activities involving Venturers must be conducted under the direction of an official branch or representative of the U.S. armed services or a community organization, such as the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, etc., whose goals are compatible with the BSA. Crews or ships wearing military-style uniforms must be clearly identified as Venturers and should not be mistaken for military personnel. Improper or illegal paramilitary or guerrilla-type activities are not permitted for Venturers.

military surplus. The BSA is eligible to receive some items declared surplus by military and federal agencies. These items are loaned in perpetuity to BSA local councils, which must retain ownership.

money-earning projects. Crews or ships planning money-earning projects must complete, in advance, a Unit Money-Earning Application, No. 34427, which may be secured from and must be approved by their BSA council. The proposed project must be consistent with the purposes and policies of the Boy Scouts of America as follows:

1. Crew committee and chartered organization approval is required.
2. The projects must not involve any form of gambling and must comply with local laws and permits.
3. Purchasers must receive fair value from the project, service, or function.
4. The project should not compete unfairly with local businesses or individuals needing work.
5. The project must protect the name of Venturing and the Boy Scouts of America, preventing any misuse or desire for endorsement by promoters.
6. Any contracts, orders, or legal agreements must be signed by crew

leaders without reference to the Boy Scouts of America and in no way binding to the local councils or National Council of the Boy Scouts of America.

7. A crew or ship may not solicit public donations for its treasury.

motorized speed events and demolition derbies. Motorized speed events with potential hazard for participants, including motorcycle, boat, drag racing, demolition derby, and related events, are unauthorized and restricted by the BSA.

N

National Council. The corporate membership of the Boy Scouts of America is made up of local council representatives, members at large, and honorary members. This group elects officers and an executive board, which establishes policies, develops programs, and grants charters to local councils.

national office (BSA). The national administrative offices of the Boy Scouts of America are located at Boy Scouts of America, 1325 West Walnut Hill Lane, P.O. Box 152079, Irving, TX 75015-2079; phone 972-580-2000.

Northern Tier National High Adventure Programs. Various backpacking, canoeing, and winter camping activities available in Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Canada. Contact Northern Tier National High Adventure Programs, P.O. Box 509, Ely, MN 55731-0509; phone 218-365-4811.

O

Order of the Arrow. A Boy Scout honor camper organization. Order of the Arrow youth membership candidate elections will be authorized to be conducted in Boy Scout troops/Varsity teams at the discretion of the lodge and under the direction of Arrowmen serving as members of a lodge unit election team. Further information is available from BSA local council service centers.

ownership of vehicles, boats, facilities, or property. Legal titles of ownership of vehicles, boats, airplanes, facilities, or properties must be held by individuals or incorporated groups in most states. Because Venturing crews or ships do not qualify as either, such titles or deeds should be held by the chartered organization or a nonprofit corporation organized by the adult lead-

ers and/or parents of a crew or ship with the approval of the local council.

P

parachuting or hang gliding. The use of sport parachutes, hang gliders, ultralights, or similar devices is not approved as a Venturing activity.

parents' night. An open house conducted by the crew for parents. Its purpose is to inform and involve parents in crew and council activities.

passenger for hire. Under the Passenger Vessel Safety Act of 1993 (mandatory June 1994), a "passenger for hire" is defined as someone who has contributed "consideration" to the owner, operator, or agent of the vessel as a condition of being taken out on the boat. In such cases, the skipper must have a Coast Guard operator's license. A bareboat charter vessel carrying more than 12 people must now be inspected by the Coast Guard. A vessel of less than 100 gross tons can carry up to six passengers for hire and does not need to be inspected. It is called an "uninspected small passenger vessel."

Philmont Scout Ranch. Camping and hiking programs for Venturing crews in 137,000 acres of rugged northern New Mexico. Includes a center for volunteer and professional training. Contact Philmont Scout Ranch, Cimarron, NM 87714; phone 503-376-2281.

pilot training/rating certification in powered and nonpowered aircraft. The BSA is not a pilot certification agency. Numerous flight schools are available to qualified Venturers or Scouts who desire to become pilots. Scouts, Venturers, and leaders who choose to become pilot-certified do so as private individuals, not as members of the BSA.

political involvement. The crew or ship program should include activities that provide understanding of America's government and political process. Venturers may not be involved in any activity that might imply BSA endorsement of a political candidate or issue.

president, Venturing crew. A Venturer elected as the top youth leader of a crew.

program capability inventory (PCI). An inventory of the program potential of selected adults connected with a Ven-

turing crew, its chartered organization, and the community.

purpose of Venturing. The purpose of Venturing is the same as that of the Boy Scouts of America: character development, citizenship training, and fitness.

Q

Quality Unit Award. Presented annually by councils to crews or ships for achievement in membership growth, quality program, and leader training. (Contact BSA local council for details.)

Quartermaster. The highest rank in Sea Scouting. (*Sea Exploring Manual*, No. 33239A)

R

racing. Motorized speed events with potential hazard for participants such as motorcycle, boat, or car racing, drag racing, demolition derbies, or related events are not approved as Venturing activities.

Ranger Award. The Venturing Ranger Award is available to all Venturers. The purpose of the award is to encourage Venturers to achieve high levels of outdoor skills proficiency and to provide a pathway for outdoor/high adventure skills training. Once earned, the Ranger Award will identify a Venturer as an elite outdoorsman who is skilled at a variety of outdoor sports and interest, is trained in outdoor safety, and is ready to assist others in activities.

rechartering and registration. Organizations using the BSA program must renew their crew charter each year. Each crew member and adult leader also must register each year. New adults and Venturers can register during the year by paying a prorated fee until the crew's charter expiration date. Membership application forms are available from the council service center.

reflection. Looking back at recent experiences to understand what happened, and using this understanding in looking forward to the next action and new experiences. We facilitate reflection by asking questions that cause people to think. A good way to practice reflection is to use it with initiative or cooperative games.

region. The BSA is divided into four geographical administrative entities, the Northeast Region, Southern Region, Central Region, and Western Region.

religious emblems. Various religious organizations have designed requirements and procedures for Venturers to earn a religious emblem of their faith. (Contact BSA local council for details.)

Religious Principle, Declaration of, (BSA). The Boy Scouts of America maintains that no person can grow into the best kind of citizen without recognizing an obligation to God and, therefore, acknowledges the religious element in development of youth members, but it is absolutely nonsectarian in its attitude toward that religious development. Its policy is that the organization or institution with which youth members are connected shall give definite attention to their religious life. Only adults willing to subscribe to this declaration of principle and the Bylaws of the Boy Scouts of America shall be entitled to certificates of leadership.

rodeo. Participation in rodeo events is not approved as a venturing activity.

S

safe boating/sailing guidelines. Guidelines and standards that apply to the operation of boating and sailing activities at the unit, district, and council level. BSA-owned boats 30 feet and under are required to have a courtesy marine inspection annually; leaders are required to have completed a basic boating safety course administered by a certified organization or agency. BSA-owned boats over 30 feet are required the same as above plus a condition survey every four years from a recognized or certified marine surveyor. Rowboats, canoes, open-cockpit sailboats, and small vessels propelled solely by oars or paddles are exempt and will comply to BSA Safety Afloat standards. BSA-owned boats are no longer considered passenger vessels and are not required to have a Coast Guard operator's license or certificate of inspection. In such cases where BSA vessels are engaged in a passenger-for-hire situation, the skipper must have a Coast Guard operator's license. See "passenger for hire."

Safe Swim Defense. A plan to help crew leaders plan safe swimming that

includes: (1) qualified supervision, (2) physical fitness, (3) safe swimming area, (4) lifeguards, (5) lookout, (6) ability groups, (7) buddy system, and (8) good discipline. (*Safe Swim Defense*, No. 34370)

Safety Afloat. The guidelines to help crew leaders plan safe boat, canoe, or raft trips are: (1) qualified supervision, (2) physical fitness, (3) swimming ability, (4) personal flotation equipment, (5) buddy system, (6) skill proficiency, (7) planning, (8) equipment, and (9) discipline. (*Safety Afloat*, No. 34368)

Scout executive (council executive). The top professional staff leader of a local council.

Sea Scouting. The traditional Sea Scouting program offers an advancement program and awards related to seamanship as outlined in the *Sea Exploring Manual*, No. 33239A.

search and rescue aircraft flying. Venturers may not fly in any type of aircraft as part of a search and rescue mission. This is an unauthorized and restricted activity by the BSA.

secretary (crew). A Venturer elected to handle minutes, records, and correspondence for the crew. (See Secretary's Records in the Appendix of the *Venturing Leader Manual*, No. 34655.)

ship, Sea Scout. Unit that conducts Sea Scouting for the chartered organization, equivalent to a Venturing crew.

Silver Award. The Silver Award is available to all Venturers. Its purpose is to provide a pathway for personal development; encourage Venturers to learn, grow and serve; and recognize the high level of achievement of Venturers who acquire Venturing skills. Candidates must first achieve at least one Bronze Award and the Venturing Gold Award.

skin and scuba diving. Scuba diving instruction, with breathing tanks, is approved only for Venturers at least 14 years of age and only under the supervision of a certified instructor using YMCA (Young Men's Christian Association), NAUI (National Association of Underwater Instructors), PADI (Professional Association of Diving Instructors), NASDA (National Association of Skin Diving Schools), or SSI (Scuba Schools International) standards and courses of instruction. Group dive sessions shall be restricted to certified scuba divers at

least 14 years of age under the supervision of a certified dive master, assistant instructor, or instructor certified by PADI, NAUI, NASDA, or SSI. Student divers must be under the supervision of an instructor certified by the YMCA, PADI, NAUI, NASDA, or SSI.

Skipper. The adult leader of a Sea Scout ship equivalent to a crew Advisor.

smoking. Adult leaders should support the attitude that young adults are better off without tobacco and should not allow the use of tobacco products at any BSA activity involving youth participants.

Snorkeling, BSA. A recognition available for Venturers who follow a program using masks and fins, and snorkel under the supervision of a qualified instructor. (Application, No. 19-176)

sponsor. See "chartered organization."

superactivity. A major annual activity, trip, or project of a venturing crew requiring long-range planning and extensive preparation. Generally the highlight of the crew's program year.

T

tour permit. A BSA permit designed to help crews and ships plan safe, healthful, and enjoyable trips by following recommended travel procedures. A local tour permit, No. 34426, is filed with the council for a trip of less than 500 miles. A national tour permit, No. 34419, is filed with the region through the council for a trip of 500 miles or more, or a trip into foreign countries. These permits apply to travel by automobile, boat, plane, bus, or other transportation. Proper adult supervision, safety procedures, proper equipment, licensed public carriers, sufficient liability insurance, parental approval, and other safeguards are required. Safety belts must be provided for and be used by each passenger and driver. No persons may be transported in the beds of trucks, trailers, or campers. (Contact BSA local council for details.)

training awards (BSA). Recognition is available for adult Venturing leaders for training, tenure, and performance. A Venturing Key is available for crew Advisors. The Venturing Training Award is available for other adult leaders.

travel. Crew or ship activities requiring extensive travel should follow the guidelines in the BSA publication *Tours*

and *Expeditions*, No. 33737. See "tour permit."

treasurer (crew). A Venturer elected to manage the crew's budget and the proper accounting for funds. (See *Treasurer's Records* in the Appendix of the *Venturing Leader Manual*, No. 34655.)

U

ultralights. See "parachuting or hang gliding."

unauthorized activities. See "all-terrain vehicles," "boxing," "chainsaws and mechanical log-splitters," "cross-country flights," "experimental class aircraft flying," "fireworks," "flying policy," "football," "hazardous activities," "hot-air ballooning," "karate and boxing," "military policy," "motorized speed events and demolition derbies," "parachuting or hang gliding," "pilot training/rating certification in powered and nonpowered aircraft," "racing," "rodeo," "search and rescue aircraft flying," and "skin and scuba diving."

uniforms and insignia (BSA). The BSA green Venturing shirt is available for wear by Venturers and adult leaders. The green Venturing short-sleeve shirt with green shoulder loops will be worn with the BSA charcoal gray shorts as the official field uniform for Venturers. *Male and female Venturers should not wear the BSA tan shirt with green shoulder loops.* Existing insignia placement policies related to BSA uniforms shall apply to the green Venturing shirt. Crews choosing to wear a patch related to their specialty may do so on the right shoulder sleeve. District, division, council, and national adult leaders related to Venturing may wear the green, silver, or gold shoulder loops with the green Venturing shirt. Sea Scouts may choose to wear nautical-style uniforms using Sea Scouting insignia available from the BSA Supply Division. For further information on BSA uniforms and insignia, contact your BSA local council.



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V

Venturer. A registered member of a Venturing crew.

Venturing activity interest survey. An annual survey of the career and leisure interests of high school students conducted by the local council. Survey results may be available to help crews recruit new members.

Venturing Code. I believe that America's strength lies in our trust in God and in the courage, strength, and traditions of our people. I will, therefore, be faithful in my religious duties and will maintain a personal sense of honor in my own life. I will treasure my American heritage and will do all I can to preserve and enrich it. I will recognize the dignity and worth of all humanity and will use fair play and goodwill in my daily life. I will acquire the Venturing attitude that seeks truth in all things and adventure on the frontiers of our changing world.

Venturing Impact Plan. A council organizational plan to "sell" business, industry, labor, professional, church, and community groups to organize Venturing crews.

Venturing invitational events. Activities and events are hosted by some local councils for all Venturers. Venturing crews that wish to host events involving other units must have the approval of the local council. This includes events for packs, troops, teams, crews, and ships from the same council, neighboring councils, the same region, or other regions.

Guidelines: (1) The proposed unit event (pack, troop, team, crew, or ship) must contribute directly or indirectly to the strengthening of participating units' program; (2) the proposal, including a written statement of objectives of the event, must be submitted to the local council Scout executive for approval; (3) if unit(s) from councils within the same region will be involved, the Scout executive must then forward the proposal to the region for its approval; and (4) if unit(s) from other regions will be involved, the proposal must be forwarded to the appropriate division of the national office for review and approval.

Venturing leader training. Each BSA local council, through a volunteer train-

ing team, offers a variety of training opportunities to support youth and adult crew leaders.

Venturing Oath. As a Venturer, I promise to help strengthen America, to be faithful in my religious duties, to help others, and, to seek truth, fairness, and adventure in our world.

Venturing participation and achievement patches. Numerous patches are available from BSA local council service centers for recognizing Venturers' participation or achievement. They include Fifty-Miler Award, Historic Trails Award, Mile Swim, BSA Lifeguard, Hornaday Award, international activity patch, high-adventure emblem, Philmont Scout Ranch, religious emblem square knot, Long Cruise badge, World Crest, high-adventure bases, and Quality Unit Award.

Venturing program conference. Conducted by many councils to provide program support and training to Venturing leaders. The Advisor, associate Advisors, president, and vice presidents from each crew attend.

Y

Young American Awards. Local and national awards available to recognize young adults between the ages of 15 and 25 who have achieved excellence in the fields of art, athletics, business, community service, education, government, humanities, literature, music, religion, or science. Recipients are encouraged to be, but need not necessarily be, members of the BSA. The national Young American Awards include five unrestricted grants of \$5,000. (Contact BSA local council for details.)

Youth Protection guidelines. The Venturing Leader Basic Training gives an overview on child abuse to help adult leaders identify child abuse when they see it, and know their responsibilities for reporting suspected abuse. The BSA wants to ensure that no youth becomes the victim of abuse through negligence or willful acts while participating in the Venturing program of the Boy Scouts of America. (*Youth Protection Venturing Leader Training*, VHS videotape, and printed *Youth Protection Guidelines for Venturing*, are available through the BSA local council service center.)